GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2706
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Corruption in Sports
Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has come up with any prudent measures or policy to deal with corruption and unethical behavior of players in sports, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is planning to bring out a white paper on match fixing and scandals in Cricket, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the measures taken by the Government to de-link and separate politicians for Cricket and other sports bodies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) Madam, with a view to preventing various unethical practices by the players such as doping, age fraud etc., Government has issued guidelines from time to time, and such guidelines have been incorporated in the National Sports Development Code of India making it mandatory for the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the players to adhere to these guidelines. The Government of India has felt the need to enact a stand-alone legislation to strengthen the existing legal provisions to prevent and combat sports frauds affecting the integrity of sports and fair play like match fixing, deliberate under-performance, etc.
Accordingly, the Government has formulated a draft legislation named "The Prevention of Sports Fraud Bill, 2015". The Draft Bill, in its present form, inter-alia, defines sports frauds and sports events, contains provisions of penalty to the offenders including national level sportspersons as well as coaches and deals with the issue of Jurisdiction of Courts to adjudicate the matter, etc.
(b) There is no proposal to bring a white paper on match-fixing and scandals in cricket. The extent of the problem is well-known, there are no two opinions on the need to fight the menace and courts are seized of the matter.
(c) Sports Federations including BCCI are autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Act/Companies Act. The Ministry does not interfere in matter relating to their management. However, Government has taken various measures for good governance in sports bodies which, inter-alia, include age and tenure restriction of office bearers.
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